

NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Newton Parish Council Annual General meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday 12th May 2014 commenced at 7pm.

Present

Cllrs J Hoyles (Chairman), D Fullbrook (Vice Chair), S Clark, M Youngs, J Kooreman, D Gibbs, A Sloan, Cllr Chris Seaton (FDC) and Cllr A Lay (CCC) and P Wilkinson (Clerk). Also attending Mr Graham Nourse, Head of Planning, Mr John Maxey and Cllr M Humphrey.

Apologies

PCSO Russ

Election of Chair

Nomination of Cllr J Hoyles proposed by Cllr M Youngs, seconded by Cllr S Clark and unanimously agreed.

Election of Vice Chair

Nomination of Cllr D Fullbrook proposed by Cllr J Hoyles, seconded by Cllr M Young and unanimously agreed.

Cllr Hoyles congratulated Cllr Clark on being elected to represent the Roman Bank Ward in the FDC elections.

Planning

Mr G Nourse stated that a new Planning Policy for Fenland had just been adopted, briefly explaining the policy. Newton was classed as a small village when taking into account local amenities thus restricting building to a small number of dwellings. Any proposals would need to satisfy application policies including thresholds set in Policy CS3. Cllr Hoyles stated the Parish Council's concerns relating to applications already submitted which had been refused, this in turn prevented growth within the village. Infill within the village centre would coalesce the village.

The CS12 Policy sets out the criteria and a number of applications had been in Flood Zone 2 and 3 which were taken into account when considering planning applications. It was suggested that a Village Plan could assist with assessing infill sites suitable for building. Mr Nourse suggested that when identified, these sites could be sent to planning to define possible verification before any building plans were submitted. The Community Led Plan (Village Plan) would be instigated later this year to help identify the sites. Chairman thanked Mr Nourse for attending the meeting. Mr Nourse and Mr Maxey left at this point.

Minutes of the previous meeting were signed as a true record.

Matters arising

Speed Watch training had taken place. Defibrillator, two suitable sites available for consideration, Cllr Clark to deal with this matter.

Action Review

Anglian Water supporting proposed solution to sewerage problem (Church Lane/Goodens Lane).

Continue monitoring.

Newton Village Playing Field Project - Cllr Fullbrook to install Information Board. **Completed**

Consult respective Councils and propose way ahead for compulsory purchase of land at Newton old school site. **Monitoring – awaiting outcome of survey**

Newton old school site – initiate action under Section 215 of the Local Government Act 1972. Concerns regarding overgrown brambles spreading onto highway. **Continue monitoring**

Obtain separate estimates for control of moles on playing field, St James' Church. **Completed**

Newton old school site - design and conduct survey of Newton residents to determine preferred usage. Cllr Clark to complete for next meeting. **Ongoing**

Allotment Newton High Road (No. 2) – write to tenant concerning proper usage and waiting list, no response received from allotment holder. Allotment reallocated. **Closed**

Request CCC Highways action to move speed restriction signs at East end of High Road to same position as official 'NEWTON' sign (closer to junction with Little Ramper). **Ongoing**

Advise resident 21, Goodens Lane (Miss Sargeant) concerning mole control. Cllr Fullbrook contacted resident and Clerk to write explaining situation. **Closed**

Highways

Resurfacing possibility for part of Fen Road and Brewers Lane later in year. Cllr Hoyles thanked Cllr Fullbrook for all his personal help. Road sign at junction of Fitton End/ Mill Lane missing. Cllr Youngs to contact Highways Department as regards replacement.

Highways Department (Kate Day) was contacted regarding mole problem in grass verge in Goodens Lane, it is not considered a vermin problem no further action to be taken.

Finance

Copies of the end of year finance for 2013/2014 were circulated. After reading through the finances for the year the Clerk asked if there were any questions. As there were no queries the accounts were approved by the Councillors and signed by the Chairman. The auditor Mr Paul Rose confirmed his retirement, next year another auditor will be required. Cllr Hoyles to approach Mr Leighton. Letter of thanks to be sent to Mr Rose.

End of Year the Community account £1691.49, Savings account £1690.98

Payments

£135 for mole eradication in Churchyard and Playing Field

Groomfield invoice query being dealt with by CCC Finance Department awaiting outcome.

Aon Insurance annual premium increased partly due to IPT Insurance Premium Tax. Clerk to investigate another insurance company quote before making a final decision.

Receipts

Precept for half year £3250

Inland Revenue Vat refund £266.36

All allotment rents paid for half year until April 2015

Insurance overcharge £5

Annual Peppercorn rent village hall £1

Cllr Seaton left meeting for further engagement.

Allotments

Two requests received for the vacant allotment from Mr Clarke and Mr Elliott, following discussion the Cllrs agreed to allocating the allotment to Mr Elliott who had been on the waiting list for some considerable time. Clerk to write to Mr Elliott to confirm and to complete an allotment agreement. A letter will also be sent to Mr Clarke. Due to some maintenance required to the allotment, it was agreed that the rent will be waived until April 2015.

Planning

Erection of 4 x 2 storey 2 bed courtyard style dwellings east of 326 High Road.

Conversion of Barn to form 2 storey 3 bed dwelling 271 High Road (Barn at Boors Farm).

Village Hall

Continues to flourish, Saturday 31st May at 7pm, 'Songs from the Shows' with David Martin tickets available. Continue to promote the village hall.

Playing Field

Maintenance work on pipe in drain to continue all day Monday 19th May, possibility of closing the playing field entrance for a few days if work not completed. Cllr Fullbrook stated that for the water to flow freely the drain may need further maintenance with a mini digger. Concrete for pipe laying and display board estimated to cost £20 to £30 agreed.

Dog Fouling was still an issue; the Dog Awareness Campaign Team visited the field highlighting the affected areas with a florescent spray, if the situation continued it would be necessary to take further action. FDC Street Pride Team were continuing to monitor the field

Police Report

Police report also sent to Cllrs prior to the meeting

Crimes reported

3/3 Church Lane Rear window entry gained watches stolen

1/5 and 2/5 Mill Lane Shed Burglary

25/3 Roman Bank padlock broken off door

Correspondence.

Letter of thanks for tree pruning from Mr & Mrs Waters, Westfield Road.

Mr Norman regarding re routing of street light cable on residence has been dealt with by Cllr Hoyles and Fullbrook. Resident happy to pay cost, letter confirming details sent to Mr Norman.

Mr Ford queried rise in Parish Precept. Letter sent to outline Parish Council finances.

Consultation documents on Healthcare for the Elderly given to Cllr Youngs to display in the PO along with Festival flyers celebrating 'Cycling through Sport.'

Emails sent to Cllrs since the last meeting

Neighbourhood Strategy Inspectors Final Report Local Plan

Interactive Signs costing

Notification of Application to Designated Neighbourhood Area, Tydd St Giles

Election notices displayed on board

Dog Awareness Campaign 30th April in playing field - Cllr Clark has details

Mayors at Home invitation 28th April

Any other Business

The amount of paper previously collected will not be practical to secure a skip.

Community Led Plan, (Village Plan) Cllr Gibbs stated that it is hoped to commence after the Village Fete.

Following a complaint by a resident Cllr Fullbrook to investigate an unidentified pipe in the playing field drain.

Sign near playing field equipment to be replaced cost estimated about £10.

Cllr Gibbs queried the number of empty properties in the village.

Date of Next meeting Monday 14th July at 7pm venue Village Hall

Meeting closed at 8.55pm